



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Idaho State Department of Education
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Media Advisory

SUPERINTENDENT LUNA ADDS RACE TO THE TOP MEETINGS IN COEUR D'ALENE, LEWISTON

BOISE – Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna has added Race to the Top community meetings in Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston to ensure representatives from the State Department of Education and educational stakeholder groups have the opportunity to hear from individuals across the state before applying for the grant.

The goal of the community meetings is to explain Idaho's plan to apply for the competitive federal Race to the Top grant and gain feedback from teachers, administrators, school board trustees, parents and other community members.

Through the federal stimulus package, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan created the \$4.35 billion Race to the Top fund to distribute competitive grants to states to implement reforms and innovations. Idaho could receive an unprecedented grant of millions of dollars to invest in education reforms and innovations that will help raise student achievement.

Superintendent Luna has been meeting with representatives from the Idaho Education Association, Idaho School Boards Association, Idaho Association of School Administrators, Idaho State Superintendents' Association, Office of the State Board of Education and Office of the Governor since September to draft Idaho's application for Race to the Top funds. The application is due January 19, 2010.

The following is a schedule of the Race to the Top community meetings:

- **Idaho Falls:** Tuesday, December 8: *Performing Arts Center at Hillcrest High School, Ammon, 7 p.m. MST*
- **Webinar:** Thursday, December 10: *Webinar via IdahoLive, 7 p.m. MST*
- **New date: Coeur d'Alene:** Monday, December 14: *North Idaho College campus – Meyer Health and Science Building, Room #106, 7 p.m. PST*
- **Treasure Valley:** Tuesday, December 15: *Meridian School District Offices, West 2nd floor Conference Room, 1303 E. Central Dr., Meridian, 7 p.m. MST*
- **New date: Lewiston:** Wednesday, December 16: *Lewis Clark State College campus – Snake River Conference Room, 7 p.m. PST*
- **Pocatello:** Wednesday, December 16: *Idaho State University Campus – Salmon River Suite, 7 p.m. MST*
- **Twin Falls:** Thursday, December 17: *Auditorium at Canyon Ridge High School, 300 N. College Road W., 7 p.m. MST*

The meetings in Lewiston and Pocatello are scheduled on the same day to ensure we hear from every community before applying for the grant. If you are unable to attend a meeting, the State Department of Education is also accepting comments on the Race to the Top application online

For more information or to submit comments, please visit the State Department of Education's Race to the Top web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/race/>.

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